

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated October 4, 2005, wherein the Examiner rejected all claims then presented in this application on the bases of two cited and applied prior art references, including a newly cited and applied reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,480,626 to Venable, and previously recited and applied U.S. Patent No. 6,137,918 to Harrington et al.

Specifically, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 8-10, inclusive, 16, 17, and 20-24, inclusive, as being anticipated by Venable, rejected claims 4, 5, 11-15, inclusive, 25 and 26 as being unpatentable over Venable in view of Harrington et al., and additionally objected to claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite on account of a misidentified dependency for this claim.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Action, comments, and the newly and currently cited and applied prior art, has carefully reviewed the specification, claims, abstract and drawings in this case, and by the present Amendment proposes certain changes in the claims which are believed now to place all claims remaining in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, in conditions for immediate allowance over the cited and applied prior art, and in view of the formal claim 8 objection made under §112.

Applicant notes at the outset that the last Amendment filed in this case effectively overcame the various rejections presented in the last Office Action herein with respect to the then-cited prior art, including the then-principal Jacobs reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,252,675, and effectively created a condition in this application with respect to which the Examiner has now cited and applied a new principal reference, namely, U.S. Patent No. 6,480,626 to Venable.

Applicant has addressed this new principal reference in the amended claims, principally by proposing current amendments to independent claims 1 and 6 to point out an important distinguishing feature of applicant's invention, which is that the invention proposes *an individual, pixel-by-pixel image processing or rendering methodology* which, significantly, is *a non-segmentation-based methodology*. This important, non-segmentation characteristic of applicant's invention, which is clearly presented *de facto* throughout the specification in this case, separates applicant's system methodology from that disclosed and/or suggested by the new Venable reference, and provides a clear, patentably distinguishing foundation for applicant's claimed invention as such is now presented in the amended claims. Applicant's individual (single), pixel-by-pixel, non-segmentation approach offers an effective and advantageous image processing procedure which is considerably simpler and faster than one which, as is the case with Venable, involves the additional activity of segmentation.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 6 have been currently amended as above indicated. Claims 2, 9, and 21-24, inclusive, stand as previously presented claims. Claims 8, 12-17, inclusive, 25 and 26 have been currently amended to revise their respective dependencies. Claims 3-5, inclusive, 7, 10, 11 and 18-20, inclusive, have been canceled without prejudice. A new claim 27 has been introduced.

New claim 27 is, essentially, an independent-claim form of previously presented claim 19 which was indicated in the last Office Action herein to be an allowable claim. This new presentation for what was original claim 19 more exactly presents this claim in the form which the Examiner considered to be allowable in the prior Action.

No new matter has been introduced by any changes thus proposed in the claims.

Appropriate non-new-matter changes have been made at several locations in the specification and abstract, and in the title to this invention. In the specification, these changes provide appropriate antecedent-basis language support for new definitional terminology now appearing in the currently amended claims.

For the reasons given above, all claims now presented in this application, on the basis of entry of this Amendment, are believed to be fully distinguishable and patentable in all respects with respect to the currently cited and applied prior art. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this application, and early allowance now of all claims presented in this case, are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

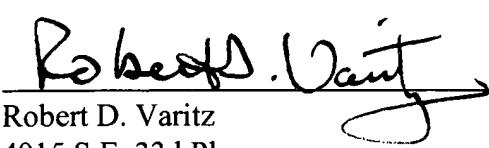
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Respectfully Submitted,

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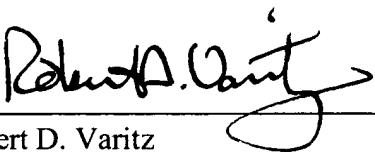
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service “Express Mail Post Office to Addressee” service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450



Robert D. Varitz